REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application and have been rejected. Claims 19-24 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14-16, and 18 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The independent claims have been appropriately amended to include the feature of a Core Schema that defines a set of core types, wherein each Item is characterized into at least one core type based on the Item type or the Item subtype, the characterizations being stored in the data store. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The preamble of claim 1, and claims 14-16 and 18 have been appropriately amended. Regarding the feature of "said Item is a unit of data storable in a data store and further comprises said Element and said Relationship" of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this means that the Item comprises the Element and the Relationship (see, application, at paragraph [0014], for example). Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Agrawal (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,533). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-18 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 is directed to a data storing comprising at least one Item, Element, and Relationship, and has been amended to include a Core Schema. Each Item is has a type and/or subtype. As claimed, the Core Schema defines a set of core types, wherein each Item is characterized into at least one core type based on the Item type or the Item subtype (see, application, at paragraph [0116], for example). The prior art fails to disclose or suggest these features.

Agrawal is directed to mining data relationships from an integrated database. Frequent itemsets are generated using a group-by query. Rules are extracted from the union of the frequent itemsets. However, Agrawal does not disclose or suggest the Core Schema as
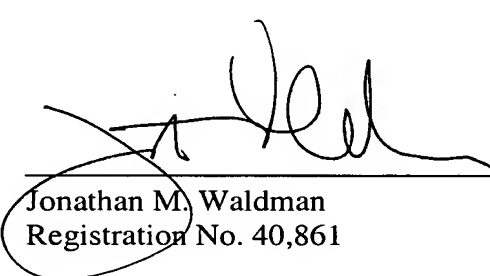
claimed. Regarding the Core Schema in original dependent claim 7, the Office Action (page 5) refers to column 8, lines 10-65 of Agrawal. Here, Agrawal describes a table function that is used to generate all possible rules from a frequent itemset. Such a function is used in rule generation, whereas the claimed Core Schema defines a set of core types into which each Item may be characterized. The table function of Agrawal does not define any core types, and no such item characterization is disclosed or suggested.

Claims 10 and 12 recite features similar to those described above with respect to claim 1. Based on the foregoing, claims 1, 10, and 12, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-9, 11, and 13-18, should not be rejected as being anticipated by Agrawal. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

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